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## (54) SWING SEAT

(71) We, CHARLES WICKSTEED & Co. LIMITED, a British Company of Stamford Road Works, Kettering, Northamptonshire, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention concerns a seat for a swing such as is used in children's playgrounds, and which comprises a platform suspended by chain or ropes from a support, which chains or ropes are secured to the seat by anchor bolts, passing through the seat at appropriate locations. An object of the invention is to provide a seat which is strong and which if damaged is unlikely to fall apart when in use. Sometimes swing seats have been damaged, resulting in cracking without separation into parts, but such separation has taken place when the swing is being used by a child.

According to the invention the seat comprises a platform having therein chain bolts for suspending the platform and a channel or channels in its underside containing reinforcement rod or wire, said rod or wire being held in position by the chain bolts.

With the above arrangement, should the seat break in use, the parts will be held together by the reinforcement which is held against separation by the bolts.

According to a preferred construction the seat is formed with a peripheral skirt or lip which is flexible. Preferably the seat is made by moulding from a material of a somewhat flexible nature, e.g. a synthetic plastics such as polythene.

An embodiment of the seat according to the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a plan.

Figure 2 an underneath plan.

Figures 3 and 4 sections on the lines A—A and B—B on Figure 2.

Figure 5 is a view similar to Figure 4 showing a chain bolt secured in position, and

Figures 6 and 7 side and end views respectively.

The seat illustrated comprises an oblong platform 10 made of synthetic plastics material by moulding and having a roughened or knurled knurled rib-like top surface 11. The seat has strengthening ribs 12 on its undersurface and a continuous rectangular (in plan) channel or recess 13, each linear portion being close to a platform edge. The platform is bounded peripherally by a lip or skirt 14. The ribs comprise a spoke-like assembly radiating from a centre location. Their common root can be in the form of a circular rib.

A boss 15 upstands near each corner, each boss having a bore therethrough leading to a recess or enlarged portion 16 of the channel 13, one boss being located above each corner of the channel.

A steel rod 17 in the form of an oblong is received in the channel 13, and this is secured firmly by means of the eyed chain bolts 18, a washer 18a and a nut 18b as will be seen from Figure 6, so that each corner of the oblong reinforcement is firmly held. The flexible nature of the seat reduces the risk of damage particularly by vandalism. Moreover, should the seat become cracked but without breaking, if the swing is used by a child who does not notice the damage, and the seat disintegrates, the reinforcement rod in the channel will serve to hold the pieces or at least support the child.

The lip or skirt 14 also acts as a shock absorber should a child be struck by or run into a seat.

## WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A swing seat comprising a platform having therein chain bolts for suspending the platform and a channel or channels in its underside containing reinforcement rod or wire, said rod or wire being held in position by the chain bolts.

2. A swing seat as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the platform has a flexible peripheral skirt or lip.

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3. A swing seat as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 wherein the platform is formed from a material having a degree of flexibility.
4. A swing seat as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the platform has strengthening ribs on its underside.
5. A swing seat as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the platform is oblong and formed with a substantially oblong channel with each linear portion of the channel close to an edge of the platform, a reinforcing rod in the form of an oblong having each corner located in a recess of the channel and retained therein by the chain bolt.
6. A swing seat substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
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